

## REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-27 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended herein to further define the claimed invention. Specifically, the term “comprising” has been replaced with the term, “containing.” Thus, no new matter has been added.

Referring to page 2, paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,475,696 to Majumdar et al. (“Majumdar”) in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,492,005 to Ohbayashi et al. (“Ohbayashi”) and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0058589 to Serizawa et al. (“Serizawa”). Applicants traverse for at least the following reasons.

At paragraph 12, page 4 of the Office Action, it is asserted that the resin layer of Serizawa is combined with the invention of Majumdar, and the nanocomposite material layer of Majumdar is provided both on the topside and the bottom side of the support; thus, it is asserted that the combination of Serizawa and Majumdar teach the claimed backcoat layer and the claimed undercoat layer.

It is also asserted in the continuation sheet attached to the Advisory Action mailed October 3, 2007, that Majumdar teaches applying the layer containing mica to be applied on both sides of the substrate, and even though Serizawa teaches providing the resin layer between the support and the recording layer, Serizawa does not expressly disclose that the resin layer cannot be provided on the backside of the support.

As discussed above, Claim 1 has been amended to recite “[a]n ink-jet recording medium containing a support having disposed thereon at least one colorant-receiving layer, wherein a back-coat layer containing an inorganic laminar compound having an aspect ratio of 100 or more is provided on a surface opposite to a surface of the support having the colorant-receiving layer...” (emphasis added).

The resin layer disclosed in Serizawa is provided between a recording layer and a support so that the transfer of water vapor and gases is prevented, resulting in the prevention of blistering. *See* Serizawa at paragraph [0024]. Serizawa fails to disclose a backcoat layer containing mica which is provided between the support and the recording layer, and Serizawa fails to disclose that the resin layer can be provided in any region other than the region between the recording layer and the support.

Although Serizawa may not expressly state that such a layer would not be provided on the backcoat layer, there is no motivation provided in Serizawa or Majumdar for one skilled in the art to apply the layer to the backcoat layer. The Office fails to point out any passage that provides any motivation to one having ordinary skill. The Office is relying upon hindsight, a rejection derived after consideration of Applicants' application, which is not proper.

Moreover, in order to achieve the prevention of blistering, it is essential that the resin layer of Serizawa is provided between the recording layer and the support. Thus, unlike the nanocomposite material layer disclosed in Majumdar, the resin layer of Serizawa cannot be arbitrarily provided in any other region in the recording material. *See* Majumdar at column 11, lines 62-65.

Thus, a person skilled in the art would not have been motivated to apply the configuration of the resin layer of Serizawa to any layers other than a prime layer, such as the back layer, of the photographic recording material of Majumdar.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim E. Choate  
Registration No. 57,102

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 31, 2007